(c) The quantity of SCN produced in BPCL's Mumbai Refinery durifig the last 3 years is as under:-

(Figures In TMT)

year	Quantity
1994-95	228.3
1995-96	219.4
1996-97	312.0

The consamet-9 for SCN are M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. Patalganga for producing value add^d petrochemicals.

(d) The shortfall In HSD production Is met by Imports.

Criteria for Allocating PrinaneHt Gas Connections

1977. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM;

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL OAS be plfeased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for allocati g permanent gas connection to Ae consumers in India; and

(b) the details thereof and wheth'/i" it is a fact that some of the consumer» have not got gas connection for las i seven years since tliey have applied fur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY *Of* PETROLBfJM AND NATURAL OAS (SHRI T.R BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the eyMnl policy, the procedure followed for relense of new LPO connections by the Puhlic Sector Oil Companies is as under:

The customer has to 'egister at the distributorship after producting proof of residence and ubtain the waitlist registration slip slowing the waitlist registration number. On maturity of the waiting list, distributor will advise the person fol- avniling the new domestic connection. After varifjing the requisity documents, the distributor arranges for the inspection of hot plflte and also verification of the resldetitlal adtfress. On verlflcatioJl df the dbove details, the distributor issues a subscription voucher ort collection of the security deposit and other recoverable amount from the custoiitcr for releasltig the connections. Thertiflfter the connection Is Installed at the customers premises.

A person can also get new LPO domestic eonneetion Immediately under Tatkal Scheme ort peymewt of one time lumpsum non-refundable amount df Rs. 40(XV- 'in addition to normal security deposi'iV.

As *an* 1.4.97, some distributors of the publiv' sector Oil Marketing Companies *wen* holding waltingllst for more than 7 ye jrs old. However, as per the directions oV the Government in April, 1997, the *OW* Companies would be clearing the w»;,tlist of prior to 1.1.91 *by* 30.9.97.

Diversion of Kerosene for Adulteration of Diesei

1978. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL OAS be pleased to state:

(A) whether it is a fact that as per Oovern^nent's estimate one third of kerosene supplies have been diverted to flduiieration of diesei. due to the vast difference in the sale price of Kerosence and diesei; and

(b) whether, with the proposed hike in the pnces of all petroleum products except kerosene, this gap is likelty to furthf.r widen, if so, what steps are contemplated to effectively prevent such divf;rsion of kerosene and its use for adidtergtion of diesei?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL OAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a*)* and (b) A study made, about three

"years ago, by a consultancy agency, had indicated diversion of kerosene at different points, particularly through wholesalers for the purpose of adulteration and sale in black market, etc. on account of high price diffeential between Kerosene and Diesel. Central Government has taken a number of steps to check diversion and adulteration, and as retail distribution where mostly diversion takes place, is the responsibility of State Government, they have also been advised to retionlise the system of distribution and to plug loopholes to prevent diversion and adulteration. The decision about adjustment and revision of prices of different petroleum products is yet to be taken.

Coal-Bcd Methane Potential in the Country

1979. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to stale:

(a) the coal-bed methane potential in the country;

(b) the likely reduction in demand of oil if the same can be explored and used;

(c) the exploration jobs carried out at present by ONGC;

(d) the location of the sites and status of exploration in these areas; and

(e) the further action plan for exploration of coal-bed methane in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The current estimates of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the country have been tentatively placed at about 1000 billion cubic metres.

(b) Reduction in oil demand, will depend upon the extent ot substitution of petroleum products by the CBM as and when produced commercially.

(c) ONGC has acquired 80 GLK of 2D seismic data and drilled 2 R&D wells for CBM exploration in Durgapur depression of Raniganj basin, West Bengal. Recently another location in Parbatpur block of Iharia Coal field has been taken up for drilling.

(d) and (e) The following coalfield areas have been identified for exploration of CBM:—

1. Raniganj
2. Jharia
3. East Bokaro
4. West Bokaro
5. Sohagpur
6. Satpura Basin
7. North Karampur

Government has recently approved a new policy for exploration and exploitation of CBM, which provides for global competitive bidding for granting licences for exploration and exploitation of CBM, a fiscal and contractual framework for this purpose and specific incentives to investors.

Acute Shortage of LPG Cylinders

1980. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the areas where shortage has been reported;

(c) the reasons for the current shortage; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to augment the supply of LPG cylinders?